

Listing of Claims:

1. (Amended) A roller shade assembly comprising:
a rotatably supported roller tube that supports a flexible shade fabric for winding of the shade fabric thereon; and
an elongated bar shaped along at least a portion of its length to be non-linear and oriented with respect to the roller tube to slidably receive the flexible shade fabric and suspend a portion of the flexible shade fabric, wherein the bar is supported to orient the shaped portion at an angle from the horizontal.
2. (Previously presented) The roller shade assembly according to claim 1, wherein the shaped portion of the elongated bar is curved along its length.
3. (Previously presented) The roller shade assembly according to claim 2, wherein the shaped portion is continuously curved.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously presented) The roller shade according to claim 1, wherein the shaped portion of the elongated bar includes a plurality of substantially straight segments each longitudinally misaligned with adjacently located segments.
6. (Amended) A drape bar for use with a roller shade assembly for suspending a portion of a flexible shade fabric, the roller shade assembly including a substantially cylindrical roller tube rotatably supported for winding receipt of the shade fabric by the roller tube, the drape bar comprising:
an elongated fabric-receiving portion shaped along its length to be non-linear, the fabric-receiving portion defining an upper surface for sliding receipt of the flexible shade; and
end portions connected to opposite ends of the fabric-receiving portion, the end portions adapted for mounting the drape bar to a fixed support such that the fabric-

receiving portion extends adjacent the roller tube of the roller shade assembly and is oriented at an angle from the horizontal.

7. (Previously presented) The drape bar according to claim 6, wherein the fabric-receiving portion is curved along its length.

8. (Previously presented) The drape bar according to claim 7, wherein the fabric-receiving portion is continuously curved along its length.

9. (Previously presented) The drape bar according to claim 6, wherein the fabric-receiving portion includes a plurality of substantially straight segments each longitudinally misaligned with adjacently located segments.

10. (Previously presented) The drape bar according to claim 6, wherein each of the end portions includes a drape bar mounting bracket secured to one of the opposite ends of the fabric-receiving portions.

11. (Previously presented) The drape bar according to claim 10, wherein the fabric-receiving portion and the drape bar mounting brackets are made from stainless steel and wherein the drape bar mounting brackets are welded to the opposite ends of the fabric-receiving portion.

12. (Previously presented) The drape bar according to claim 10, wherein each of the drape bar mounting brackets includes at least one opening for attachment of the drape bar mounting bracket to a fixed support.

13. (Previously presented) The drape bar according to claim 12, wherein each of the drape bar mounting brackets includes upper and lower plates that are oriented substantially perpendicular to each other, the fabric-receiving portion connected to the lower plates of the drape bar mounting brackets, the at least one opening of each of the drape bar mounting brackets being provided in the upper plate.

14. (Previously presented) The drape bar according to claim 12, wherein the at least one opening of each of the drape bar mounting brackets includes at least one opening for attachment of a roller tube mounting bracket to the drape bar mounting bracket adjacent an end of the roller tube.

15. (Previously presented) A roller shade assembly comprising:
a rotatably supported roller tube that supports a flexible shade fabric for winding of the shade fabric thereon; and

an elongated drape bar curved along at least a fabric-receiving portion of its length, the drape bar extending adjacent the roller tube for sliding receipt of the flexible shade fabric on an upper surface defined by the fabric-receiving portion of the drape bar, the fabric-receiving portion of the drape bar having opposite ends and defining an arc depth, A, between its opposite ends and an intermediate location therebetween, the drape bar supported such that the surface of the fabric-receiving portion is oriented at an angle, θ , from the horizontal, the drape bar located with respect to the roller tube such that each of the ends of the fabric-receiving portion of the drape bar is located at a distance, D, from the roller tube,

the values of A, D, and θ related to each other according to the equation:

$$(A + D)^2 + (A \tan \theta)^2 = [A \tan \theta + D]^2$$

16. (Previously presented) The roller shade assembly according to claim 15, wherein the angle θ is greater than 45 degrees.

17. (Previously presented) The roller shade assembly according to claim 16, wherein the angle θ is approximately 55 degrees.

18. (New) A roller shade assembly comprising:
a rotatably supported roller tube that supports a flexible shade fabric for winding of the shade fabric thereon; and
an elongated bar shaped along at least a portion of its length to be in the form of a compound curve and oriented with respect to the roller tube to slidably receive the flexible shade fabric and suspend a portion of the flexible shade fabric, wherein the bar is supported to orient the shaped portion at an angle from the horizontal.

19. (New) A roller shade assembly comprising:

a rotatably supported roller tube that supports a flexible shade fabric for winding of the shade fabric thereon; and

an elongated bar shaped along at least a portion of its length to be non-linear and oriented with respect to the roller tube to slidably receive the flexible shade fabric and suspend a portion of the flexible shade fabric, the bar being supported to orient the shaped portion at an angle from the horizontal, wherein the shaped portion of the elongated bar includes a plurality of substantially straight segments each longitudinally misaligned with adjacently located segments.